

In the Claims

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) [~~The method of claim 2~~] A method of monitoring distribution of proprietary audio or image files on the Internet, comprising:

obtaining audio or image files from plural different Internet sites;

identifying plural of the obtained files having certain digital watermark data embedded therein, and decoding the digital watermark data therefrom, including decoding the digital watermark data with reference to public key data;

by reference to said decoded digital watermark data, determining proprietors of each of said plural files; and

sending information relating to results of the foregoing monitoring to said determined proprietors;

wherein proprietors of audio or image files are alerted to otherwise unknown distribution of their audio or image properties on the Internet.

4. (Currently amended) [~~The method of claim 2~~] A method of monitoring distribution of proprietary audio or image files on the Internet, comprising:

obtaining audio or image files from plural different Internet sites;

identifying plural of the obtained files having certain digital watermark data embedded therein, and decoding the digital watermark data therefrom, including decoding the digital watermark data with reference to private key data;

by reference to said decoded digital watermark data, determining proprietors of each of said plural files; and

sending information relating to results of the foregoing monitoring to said determined proprietors;

wherein proprietors of audio or image files are alerted to otherwise unknown distribution of their audio or image properties on the Internet.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) [~~The method of claim 5~~] A method of monitoring distribution of proprietary audio or image files on the Internet, comprising:

obtaining audio or image files from plural different Internet sites;

identifying plural of the obtained files having certain digital watermark data embedded therein, and decoding the digital watermark data therefrom;

by reference to said decoded digital watermark data, determining proprietors of each of said plural files; and

sending information relating to results of the foregoing monitoring to said determined proprietors;

wherein proprietors of audio or image files are alerted to otherwise unknown distribution of their audio or image properties on the Internet;

the identifying includes performing a domain transformation on data from at least certain of said files, yielding transformed data; and

[in which] the identifying further includes performing a matched filtering operation on said transformed data.

7. (Currently amended) [~~The method of claim 5~~] A method of monitoring distribution of proprietary audio or image files on the Internet, comprising:

obtaining audio or image files from plural different Internet sites;

identifying plural of the obtained files having certain digital watermark data embedded therein, and decoding the digital watermark data therefrom;

by reference to said decoded digital watermark data, determining proprietors of each of said plural files; and

sending information relating to results of the foregoing monitoring to said determined proprietors;

wherein proprietors of audio or image files are alerted to otherwise unknown distribution of their audio or image properties on the Internet;

the identifying includes performing a domain transformation on data from at least certain of said files, yielding transformed data; and

[in which] said domain transformation is a 2D FFT transform.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) [~~The method of claim 8~~] A method of monitoring distribution of proprietary audio or image files on the Internet, comprising:

obtaining audio or image files from plural different Internet sites;

identifying plural of the obtained files having certain digital watermark data embedded therein, and decoding the digital watermark data therefrom;

by reference to said decoded digital watermark data, determining proprietors of each of said plural files; and

sending information relating to results of the foregoing monitoring to said determined proprietors;

wherein proprietors of audio or image files are alerted to otherwise unknown distribution of their audio or image properties on the Internet;

the identifying includes performing a domain transformation on data from at least certain of said files, yielding transformed data;

said domain transformation is a one-dimensional transform; and

[in which] the identifying further includes generating column-integrated scan data for at least one oblique scan through an obtained image, and performing a one-dimensional FFT transformation thereon.

10. (Currently amended) [~~The method of claim 2~~] A method of monitoring distribution of proprietary audio or image files on the Internet, comprising:

obtaining audio or image files from plural different Internet sites;

identifying plural of the obtained files having certain digital watermark data embedded therein, and decoding the digital watermark data therefrom;

by reference to said decoded digital watermark data, determining proprietors of each of said plural files; and

sending information relating to results of the foregoing monitoring to said determined proprietors;

wherein proprietors of audio or image files are alerted to otherwise unknown distribution of their audio or image properties on the Internet; and

[in which] the identifying includes computing power spectrum data relating to at least certain of said files.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 including low-pass filtering said power spectrum data.

12. (Currently amended) ~~[The method of claim 2]~~ A method of monitoring distribution of proprietary audio or image files on the Internet, comprising:

obtaining audio or image files from plural different Internet sites;

identifying plural of the obtained files having certain digital watermark data embedded therein, and decoding the digital watermark data therefrom;

by reference to said decoded digital watermark data, determining proprietors of each of said plural files; and

sending information relating to results of the foregoing monitoring to said determined proprietors;

wherein proprietors of audio or image files are alerted to otherwise unknown distribution of their audio or image properties on the Internet;

including analyzing a spectral characteristic of at least certain of said obtained files to identify the possible presence of digital watermark data therein.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) [~~The method of claim 2~~] A method of monitoring distribution of proprietary audio or image files on the Internet, comprising:

obtaining audio or image files from plural different Internet sites;

identifying plural of the obtained files having certain digital watermark data embedded therein, and decoding the digital watermark data therefrom;

by reference to said decoded digital watermark data, determining proprietors of each of said plural files; and

sending information relating to results of the foregoing monitoring to said determined proprietors;

wherein proprietors of audio or image files are alerted to otherwise unknown distribution of their audio or image properties on the Internet; and

[~~in which~~] said obtaining includes automatic computer downloading of image or audio files, without specific human instruction of particular files to be downloaded.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Original) A method of monitoring distribution of proprietary audio or image files on the Internet, comprising:

from at least one computer, automatically obtaining audio or image files from plural different Internet sites;

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automatically identifying plural of the obtained files having certain digital watermark data embedded therein, and decoding the digital watermark data therefrom;

by reference to said decoded digital watermark data, determining proprietors of each of said plural files; and

sending information relating to results of the foregoing monitoring to said determined proprietors;

wherein proprietors of audio or image files are alerted to otherwise unknown distribution of their audio or image properties on the Internet.
